



SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore
Mrs. Maxine B. Russell

MINUTES OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2005

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank S. Bacio
Vito Cannella
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore
Maxine B. Russell

Others Present

Sherry Scates, Commission Staff

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2005

On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Bacio and unanimously carried, the, November 23, 2005 meeting minutes were approved with the following corrections:

Page 2, Chair's Report, 1st paragraph, last sentence, add: "...Chris Viguera, Office of Protocol, were also..."

Page 3, Whittier Branch Court, last sentence: "...adjacent Sheriff's Police Department...."

Page 3, Rosemary Children's Services, last sentence: "...concern that department records reports regarding..."

CHAIR'S REPORT

On behalf of the Commission, Chair Montano presented Commissioner Russell with a Certificate in appreciation of her dedication and for her research and development of a year end report to the Board of Supervisors.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported that the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,052.02.

STAFF REPORT

Sherry Scates, Commission Staff, distributed copies of a general invitation from Dr. Sanders, Director, DCFS, to participate in a Learning Organization Group (LOG) Summit for the exchange of ideas and perspectives on children in need of residentially-based services. The invitation, signed by Dr. Sanders and actually mailed after the R.S.V.P. deadline, was actually sent by Ed Sosa, Division Chief, DCFS. Commissioners felt this was an excellent opportunity to address the Commission's long standing issues of concern and asked staff to try to make reservations for Chair Montano, Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioners Hammargren and Russell.

REVIEW AND COMMENT ON YEAR END REPORT TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Draft copies of the Year End Report to the Board of Supervisors were distributed. Following a brief discussion, Commissioner Russell asked that Commissioners review the report and forward any comments/suggestions to staff, which will be incorporated into the report. She also asked that Commissioners be prepared to accept the report at the next Commission meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

West Covina/Citrus Branch Court

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren inspected this facility on December 5th and noted the following areas of concern: color video monitors are badly needed in male cell #1 and the "Z" configured hallway/staircase. Commissioners were advised that deputies have been requesting same for years, as has the Commission, and both feel the lack of color video monitors poses a serious safety hazard for deputies, visitors and inmates, as well as a source of potential law suits. Frequently, one jailer/deputy must escort 5 to 8 inmates through this hallway/staircase and are at times completely out of sight should a problem occur. Additionally, the court does not coordinate disaster/emergency plans with the West Covina Police Department; no inspection logs are kept of court room and holding area security checks.

Criminal Justice Courthouse/Downtown Los Angeles

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren inspected this facility on December 6th and found no areas of concern observed or reported. Commissioners noted that this facility not only serves 61 courts, it processes 1,900 inmates/cases a day and is clean and well organized and has an excellent documentation system.

Sycamores/Tree House - #104-3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella inspected this facility on December 1st and found it to be clean and well maintained with no areas of concern observed or reported.

Sycamores/Main Campus - #104-2

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella inspected this facility on December 5th and found it to be clean and well maintained with no areas of concern observed or reported. Commissioners noted that this facility has a full time mental health care program including psychiatrists and therapists; accessibility to fire extinguishers in Hunter Cottage needs to be checked.

Huntington Park Superior Court

Commissioners Moore and Bacio inspected this facility on December 6th and noted that the lock-up in this facility was closed on July 19, 2004 and only traffic and small claims are handled at this facility; all criminal cases are now handled by Compton, Downey, Metro, and CCB Courthouses.

Jean Lores Group Home 1 - #60-1

Commissioners Moore and Bacio re-inspected this facility on December 1st specifically to review the Needs and Services Plans, which were currently up to date and the obstructions to the side door access have been removed.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Montano distributed inspection assignments to Commissioners for the following week.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Scates

Commission Services Staff